National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: JUN 25 2007

In reply refer to: P-07-7 through -9

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Administrator
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About 11:15 a.m. central daylight time on October 27, 2004, an 8-inch-diameter pipeline owned by Magellan Midstream Partners, L.P., (Magellan) and operated by Enterprise Products Operating L.P. (Enterprise) ruptured near Kingman, Kansas, and released approximately 4,858 barrels (204,000 gallons) of anhydrous ammonia.[1] Nobody was killed or injured due to the release. The anhydrous ammonia leaked into a creek and killed more than 25,000 fish including some from threatened species. Enterprise reported that the cost of the accident was $680,715, including $459,415 for environmental remediation.

The National Transportation Safety Board determined that the probable cause of the pipeline rupture near Kingman, Kansas, on October 27, 2004, was a pipe gouge created by heavy equipment damage to the pipeline during construction in 1973 or subsequent excavation activity at an unknown time that initiated metal fatigue cracking and led to the eventual rupture of the pipeline. Contributing to the severity of the accident was the pipeline controller's failure to accurately evaluate available operating data and initiate a timely shutdown of the pipeline.

Enterprise's procedures for reporting accidents did not contain guidelines on using available information and pipeline data to estimate the release or damages for telephonic reporting to government agencies. In the controller's phone conversation with Enterprise's accident reporting contractor,[2] the controller reported that a large quantity of anhydrous ammonia had been released and had formed an ammonia vapor cloud, but he stated that he did not know the amount of anhydrous ammonia that had been released. When the contractor responded that without an estimate of a specific quantity the National Response Center would enter a 1,000-barrel estimate in its incident report, the controller told the contractor that a 1,000-barrel estimate would be fine. Later, when the controller confirmed that the release quantity was

[1] For additional information, see National Transportation Safety Board, *Anhydrous Ammonia Pipeline Rupture Near Kingman, Kansas, October 27, 2004*, Pipeline Accident Brief NTSB/PAB-07/02 (Washington, DC: NTSB, 2007).

[2] 3E Company was Enterprise's accident reporting contractor.